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THE MINISTER's PRACTICE: OR, THE FEMALE POLITICIAN.

Their *ſimilar political* STEWARD, with *Threats* and *Promiſes*, *cozen'd* their *Couſen* out of a large MANUSCRIPT, near fourteen Months before the Siege of Fort St. *Philip*'s; that was not only written to expoſe their deſtructive Minions, for being guilty of *mercenary* Ends all the laſt WAR; but alſo to diſcover the Danger of *Minorca*, thro' their groſs *Neglect* of Duty.

Which Copy, *once purchaſed, to be re-ſold;*
For juſt forty Guineas *in current Gold:*
Likewiſe twenty Guineas *a Year for Life,*
As agreed on with a great Stateſman's Wife:
Kept in their Cabinet theſe three laſt Years,
Whoſe Partizans will pay no long Arrears!
Yet, no Wonder, they ſave their Ill-got Pelf;
Whoſe Patrons ſtand next to G. REX *himſelf.*

Zealouſly Addreſſed,
With a Preſent of 3300 GUINEAS,
To the bold PRUSSIANS unparallel'd HERO.

By an *Earl*'s GRANDSON.

LONDON.
Printed for the AUTHOR, A. D. 1758.

John Railton

THE MINISTER's PRACTICE: OR, THE FEMALE POLITICIAN.

FOR diſcovering fraudulent Practices in the *Britiſh* Army at Home, ſometime before the former War commenced, I was forced away from the Royal Train of Artillery in *England*, without a lawful Diſcharge or any fair Diſcount; chiefly through the moſt cruel Connivance, if not private Encouragement, of ſome conſcious Placemen at Court; and compelled, with the utmoſt Rigour, to ſerve more than eleven Years, in a marching Regiment at *Minorca!* But, returned to *London* after the general Reduction, A. D. 1749; without my long Arrears, or any Benefit of the *Royal Bounty:* Which Arrears, and future Reward for paſt Service, are my juſt Property, by the 11th and 45th Articles of War; beſides the 14th Clauſe of a *Mutiny Act*, ordained for the Rule and better Payment of his Majeſty's Forces: See an Extract.

An Act to puniſh Mutiny and Deſertion; and for better Payment of the Army and their Quarters.

CLAUSE XIV.

Penalty on Agent, &c. detaining Officers or Soldiers Pay.

And be it further enacted, That if any Paymaſter, Agent, or Clerk of any Garriſon, Regiment, Troop, or Company, ſhall willfully detain or withhold, by the Space of one Month, the Pay of any Officer or Soldier (Cloaths, and all other juſt Allowances being deducted) after ſuch Pay ſhall be by him or them received; or if any Officers, having received their Soldiers Pay, ſhall refuſe to pay each Non-commiſſioned Officer and Soldier their reſpective Pay, when it ſhall become due, at the Rate, *&c.*—Then, upon Proof thereof before a Court-Martial as aforeſaid, or a Court of General Officers, to be for that Purpoſe held and ſummoned by his Majeſty's Order, every ſuch Paymaſter, Agent, Clerk, and Officer, ſo offending, ſhall be diſcharged from his Imployment, and ſhall forfeit to the Informer, upon Conviction before either of the ſaid Courts, *one hundred Pounds*, to be levied as aforeſaid, and ſhall be utterly diſabled to have or hold any civil Office or Imployment within this Kingdom, or in his Majeſty's Service; and the Informer, if a Soldier (if he demands it) ſhall be, and is hereby diſcharged from any further Service; any thing in this Act contained to the contrary notwithſtanding.

ART. IX.

ART. XI.

No Non-Commiſſion Officer or Soldier ſhall leave his Troop or Company, and inliſt himſelf in any other Regiment, Troop, or Company, without a Diſcharge from the Commanding Officer of the Regiment in which he laſt ſerved, under Pain of being reputed a Deſerter, and ſuffering accordingly.

Officer or Soldier leaving his Troop or Company, without a Diſcharge in Writing, to be reputed a Deſerter.

And in caſe any Officer ſhall knowingly receive or entertain any ſuch Non-Commiſſion Officer or Soldier, upon Proof made thereof before a General Court-Martial, he ſhall be caſhiered.

The Penalty if an Officer entertain a Soldier belonging to another Regiment.

Nor ſhall any Diſcharge granted to any Non-Commiſſion Officer or Soldier after he has joined the Regiment, Troop, or Company, into which he is inliſted, be allowed of as ſufficient, unleſs ſigned by a Field Officer of the Regiment whence ſuch Soldier was diſmiſſed.

No Diſcharge to be allowed, unleſs ſigned by a Field-Officer.

ART. XLV.

The aforegoing Rules and Articles ſhall be read and publiſhed at the Head of every Regiment, Troop, or Company, muſtered, or to be muſtered in our Service, once every two Months at

Theſe Articles to be read once every Two Months.

fartheſt; and are to be duly obſerved by all Officers and Soldiers in our Service; and alſo by our Companies of Gunners, and other Military Officers of our Train of Artillery, &c.

After my Arrival to this Metropolis, as aforeſaid, I addreſſed my rich Kindred for ſome Bread; ſo got a few ſmall Preſents, at different Seaſons, partly on the Conſideration of my being an Earl's unfortunate Grandſon; or, perhaps, leſt I ſhould detect and diſgrace thoſe great Relations, that are ſuſpected to be deeply concerned in my clandeſtine Tranſportation; whoſe trifling Preſents ſcarcely enabled me to collect ſome rough Fragments (ſaved out of the Conſumers Fire abroad, with extreme Difficulty!) and to digeſt my uſeful Remarks in readineſs for the Preſs: Meaning thoſe Papers that I could not ſafely compleat over Sea, being ſecretly penned in Caves and Corners of the Rocks, deſignedly to expoſe a Neſt of pernicious Rooks, or lucrative Commanders near *Portmahon* Harbour all the laſt War! Which Manuſcript was ſent amongſt our late *Miniſtry* (at their *Levee-Houſe*) eſpecially thoſe that ſhould have been my beſt *Friends*, on the firſt Day of *March*, A. D. 1755; in hopes they would both *procure* me a ſpeedy *Redreſs*, for my faithful *Diſcoveries*, and alſo take the neceſſary Precautions to *ſecure* that important Harbour.

But, alas! quite contrary to Expectation, they took an Advantage of my preſſing Neceſſity; by ſending one of their Stewards (ſirnamed *Perry*) down

down Stairs, on purpoſe to prohibit the Publication of my *well-meant* Work: When he actually promiſed, before an *omniſcient* Creator, in the Names of his *Superiors*, to get me the Value of 20 *Guineas* or upwards every Year, during my natural Life, for the ſaid *Manuſcript*: But he likewiſe promiſed, or *threatned*, for the higher Powers, to get me deprived of the ſame Benefit; if not impriſoned during the reſt of my Life, in Caſe I ever *preſumed* to publiſh my *original* Copy!

Reaſons of ſuch Importance, when ſenſible of their ſufficient Power to pay the firſt, and natural Propenſity to perform the latter Promiſe, conſequently brought me to a ready Compliance; ſo I ſold thoſe timely *Diſcoveries*, that might have *freed* my native Country from an *expenſive* WAR, in Caſe ſome *Steerors* of the Helm had not *tied* my Hands, and *ſcreen'd* their *mercenary Minions* at all Events! Whereas I received Proviſions, according to Contract, that ſame Spring; but my rich Couſins (reſembling *Hotſpur*'s, whom he wiſhed at the Devil) after they had *cozend* me out of my Writings, and a ſtrict Promiſe not to *publiſh* the Contents; thoſe Prevaricators ſoon put me off with the Train's Penſion at *Six-pence* a Day.—Likewiſe ſuffer'd, or encouraged their Agent's Clerk (ſirnamed *Forman*) to ſtop 4 l. 3 s. at different Payments; both for his own *unwarrantable* Perquiſites, and upon ſome other *frivolous* Pretences, ſeemingly to go *Snacks* with ſimilar Extortioners!

I charged the ſaid *baſe*, *incroaching*, or *Curry-favour Clerk*, ſeveral Times, at his *Peril* to make any

any more ſuch *unjuſt* Stoppages; but he frequently replied, in a ſurly Manner, that our *Agent* would certainſy wait on the *Maſter-General* of ORDNANCE, and get his GRACE's *leave* to *ſtrike* my *Name* out of their *Penſion Liſt*! Which *groſs* Inſults, and *barbarous* Repulſes, excited me to ſend agreat Number of written Complaints; both to the ſaid *contracting* Steward, and ſome of his Superiors that were principally concerned, but never could get any ſatisfactory Anſwer, after all my Applications! Neither would their lofty *Steward* ſpeak to his Lady's Couſin, nor yet vouchſafe me one pleaſant Look, theſe three Years paſt, notwithſtanding I often met the moroſe *Upſtart* in *London* Streets.

Conſider the late ACT of Parliament for *Chelſea College* Penſioners, whoſe *Agents* are liable to be caſhier'd, and to ſuffer the Penalty of *one hundred Pounds*, for ſtopping any Part of their *Out-Penſioners ſtipend* above the Statute Allowance: but ſtill, as that Act don't ſeem to include the Train, our almoſt *inacceſſible* Agent, or his *arbitrary* Clerk, may *tyrannize* over their Penſioners at Pleaſure, ſo long as they can be ſhelter'd by ſome great *Miniſters* of STATE; whoſe *illegal* Detention of my Copy, after allowing the greateſt Part of our ſtipulated Price to be ſtopt, does not only indicate their *Connivance* at ſuch cruel Oppreſſors; but, I boldly preſume, a readineſs to *protect* the *Tyrants* upon all Occaſions.

KING

KING GEORGE owes me *three hundred Guineas* Arrears, or upwards, ſtopt by *ſtern* Officers under him, provided his Majeſty bear chief Rule over the Royal Regiment of Artillery (elſe I muſt conſequently apply to the Jews) and ſome of his Boſom Companions, or their contracting Steward, appears to be above forty Guineas in my Debt, dated in May, A. D. 1758. Which long Arrears, and *unjuſt* Stoppages, are hereby required directly; otherwiſe thoſe promiſe Breakers, who miſlead my SOVEREIGN, may depend upon it; the firſt Britons of Curioſity enough to know how they loſt *Minorca*, that are both *able* and *willing* to get me a due *Redreſs*, ſhall have a fair Copy drawn from my original Manuſcript: Which Treatiſe, with the Divine Aſſiſtance, will fully ſatisfy all my candid Readers (being Well-wiſhers to their King and Country) that the worſt Commanders in their Fleet, off St. *Philip*'s Caſtle, could not poſſibly be more culpable during the Siege, than ſome *Leaders* of our *Land* FORCES appeared; when they were in Danger of a Siege every Day, for ſeveral Years ſucceſſively, both from the *French* and *Spaniards!*

*** Beſides the *three hundred Guineas* of long Arrears afore-recited, *three thouſand* more for Damages are juſtly my due, by a moderate Computation; as theſe Penalties are clearly ſpecified in the ſaid Manuſcript: Which 3300 Guineas are now deſigned as a Preſent, and hereby ordered directly, to the unprecedented King of *Prnſſia*; hoping he will

graciouſly accept of that ſmall Sum, at ſuch a critical Conjuncture (as a poor Widow's two Mites were accepted at the Treaſury) from a Well-wiſher to his Majeſty's Arms: Whoſe brave Troops, by a current Report, had only about *Three-pence* per Day, each Muſqueteer in time of Peace; ſo, that judicious Monarch, for a better Encouragement, augmented their Pay the laſt Winter: Whereas our private Soldiers, that were allowed *Six-pence* per Day by the *Engliſh* Eſtabliſhment, ſcarce received to the full Value of *Two-pence Halfpenny* a Man, for their daily Subſiſtance all the laſt War at *Minorca!*

Yet, I don't ſo much blame any ſelfiſh Officers *Abroad*, as their wilful Protectors at *Home*, for the Loſs of *Portmahon* Harbour; which great Diſgrace, without further Diſpute, encouraged our Foes to puſh the Succeſs of their Arms! For which weighty Reaſons; thoſe Conſtituents that ſhewed their Reſentment, to little or no Effect the laſt Year, may yet have an ample Satisfaction; in caſe their ſucceſſive Addreſſes to the Crown, and ſtrict Inſtructions to their Repreſentatives, for a full Enquiry into our national Miſcarriages, were not merely *contrived*, like their MILITIA ACT (the only material Point in Queſtion) on purpoſe to amuſe the Populace?

☞ BRITONS, take *Care*! Be not *deceived*; but ſtill, *ſtrike Home*: Since I hereby proteſt, with the Divine Permiſſion, thoſe curious *Britons* that may ſtill perſevere in Purſuit of their former *Enquiries*;

who

who dare ſtrike boldly at the deep Roots of *Corruption* (on the ſmall Conſideration of 40 *Guineas* at preſent, and Security for twenty *Guineas per Ann.* during my Life) ſhall have a fair Copy drawn from the aforeſaid Manuſcript, by adverti ſing in ſome of the public News Papers; or by a Letter of plain Directions, for the oppreſſed Author *John Railton*; ſhewing where to find any ſuch brave *Advocates* for the *Britiſh* Cauſe, to be left at the *Bull*'s *Head* in *Long-Acre*: *London.*

Where may be had, by the ſame AUTHOR;

THE *School-Boys* EMULATION; or, Their *Second-beſt Exerciſe*: Deſigned to prevent their eager Purſuit of ſundry Diverſions, and to imbue their *volatile* Minds with *Heroic* Virtues, by learning them the excellent Myſtery of martial Diſcipline; ſo that they may be annually formed into a national Militia; even without any manner of Prejudice, or the leaſt Impediment, to their ſcholaſtical Education.

PREFACE to the *READER.*

SINCE it was my Lot to lay ſometime, laſt Summer, in St. *Thomas's* Hoſpital; for ſucceſſive Pains in my Limbs, Back and Loins (got thro' ill Uſage in a wrong Regiment) but otherways in my perfect Health; Then, not willing to eat the Bread of *Idleneſs*, nor remain quite ignorant of our State Affairs, that concerns every loyal Subject in ſome Reſpects; whereas my own ſhare of Trouble, all

impartial Judges will readily allow, can't reaſonably be reckoned the leaſt; Therefore I bought the *Literary Magazine*, that contains an Extract of the *Militia* Act, to Diſcipline 32,000 Men in three Years Time; which ſmall Number, in my real Opinion, might have been well diſciplined that very Summer.

Upon my ſincere Word (if there be any Veracity in a Soldier) I had a very ſtrong Suſpicion by the whole Plan, that our Parliament never deſigned to put the ſaid Act in Force! Whereas I propoſed to exerciſe 100,000 School-Boys, or upwards, every Year, in a compleat Manner; ſo went quite to the Camp, near *Canterbury* in *Kent*, merely to wait on the Duke of *Marlborough*; whoſe Steward (Sirnam'd *Vaſſer*) told me before a great many Servants at Dinner, that his GRACE thought my Scheme would do very well; in Caſe I could get that Copy preſented to the Prince of *Wales*, as it is addreſſed to his Royal Highneſs, and reſpectively inſcribed to Prince *Edward*.

Then, I returned to *Kew-Green* immediately (where my firſt Application was made) and ſent that Manuſcript up Stairs; but the Page in waiting, who brought it back, ſaid that the Prince of *Wales* did not meddle with ſuch Affairs; therefore I muſt convey my Scheme to the *Lord* in Waiting, at *Kenſington*, for the King himſelf; that his Majeſty, if approved of, might ſpeedily put it in Execution; For which Reaſon, I reſolved to ſend it in Print, and demanded three Months Arrears of my Penſion Money, in order to pay the Printer; but our Agent's crafty Clerk pretended (ſurpriſing Pretences!) that

he

he had actually paid my Creditors 1 *l.* 18 *s.* 6 *d.* ſo, he ſhuffled me off with Threats enough, and three half Crowns! Which petty Tyrant diſtreſſed me to ſuch a great Degree, when the antient Agent was at his Country Seat, that I could not get Credit for printing my Scheme till October, A. D. 1757.

Reception amongſt the *Courtiers.*

Quickly after two Pamphlets came from the Preſs, I waited on the *Sagacious* Earl of *Egmont*, at *Charlton* in *Kent*; he being formerly my particular Friend, and Friends *Advocate* in the Houſe of *Commons*, e'er he became a great *Courtier*: Which Nobleman ſeemed Angry at my Scruple, only to tell him thoſe *Secrets*, that were reſerved for the *King* and *Council*, as hinted of in my Scheme; ſo, his Lordſhip gave me but one *Half Crown*, both for my Pamphlet and that long Journey, from his Town Houſe in *Pall-mall.*

On the ſecond Day of *November*, I ſent Lord *Blakeney* the other Pamphlet up Stairs, and waited below till he had peruſed it; then he called me into his Bedchamber, and ſaid, I could not pleaſe him better, with all the Books in *England*; or ſpoke Words to the very ſame Effect: Adding, that he often thought to propoſe ſuch a *Scheme* himſelf, but other Buſineſs made him *deſiſt*, or *poſtpone* his Intentions; howſoever, he was ſure, my Work muſt have good *Succeſs*, as nothing elſe would ever bring a national *Militia* to Perfection: —Being ſo far *tranſported* with my *Propoſals*, notwithſtanding

withſtanding his great *Frugality*, that he gave me a Guinea to get ſome Pamphlets neatly *covered*, with *curious* emboſſed Paper for *Perſons* of Diſtinction: Likewiſe ordered me to beſpeak a *Counter-Firelock* and *Bayonet*, juſt according to my own *Fancy*, for *Patterns*, and he would freely pay the Gun-maker: At my going away, he gave me leave to bring him a Dozen Pamphlets, for the *Approbation* of his Friends; ſaying, I'll do all that ever I can for you; I'll do you all the Service that ever lays in my Power.—Yet, his Lordſhip never would do me any farther Service, (not a Farthing's Worth) in my greateſt Neceſſity! ſeeing his Friends will ſhew me no Countenance.

‖ Of all thoſe expected firm Patriots, as referr'd to in the Dedication of my *Scheme*, I got but one ſingle *Guinea*, from a certain *Nobleman*: Therefore (depending on his *Friendſhip)* I ſent him my Appeal to the Duke of *Marlborough*, with printed Advertiſements concerning this Affair: But, his Lordſhip ſaid, he believed, I was out of my Senſes; which ſevere Reflection occaſioned another Letter the very next Day. *See a ſhort Extract.*

My Noble Lord, *May*, A. D. 1758.

'YOUR Lordſhip ſaid, Yeſterday, that ye be-
'lieved, I was out of my Senſes!—Very likely, my
'Lord.—*Solomon* ſaid, that Oppreſſion will make
'a wiſe Man mad.—Governor *Feſtus* told St. *Paul*
'he was certainly mad.—King *Lear* was likewiſe
'reputed mad, after he had given all away to his
'three Daughters; two of which were ſuch unna-
'tural

'tural Children, as to refuſe him a proper Support 'at laſt!—This ſeems to be my Caſe exactly; 'after I gave a large Manuſcript to ſome rich Cou-'ſins, for the Value of twenty *Guineas per Ann.* 'during my Life, they actually broke the ſaid 'Contract.—So I ſent your Lordſhip my Appeal 'to the Duke of *Marlborough*; being ſtill in hopes 'ye will convey the ſame to his *Grace*, and alſo get 'me a due Redreſs, in Conſideration of my deep 'Diſtreſs.' J. R.

* Which Nobleman peruſed that Letter in the Hall, then returned it to me himſelf, and ſaid, he would have nothing to do with that Affair; but, his Lordſhip kept my *Appeal* to the Duke of *Marlborough*.—In brief, I ſent about five Pounds worth of Pamphlets amongſt the *Courtiers*, to get me the Royal *Sanction*; but, they frequently replied, that the King was greatly engaged, and bid me wait till ſome better Opportunity.

‡ At length, their *Domeſticks*, without returning my Pamphlets, bullied me away from their Doors; namely, ſome bluff *Stewards* declared, if I did not go about my Buſineſs directly, they would ſend me ſomewhere elſe: Moſt probably they meant, where the *Militia Men* were to be ſent, for every trifling *Fault*, at the mere Pleaſure of their Military *Adjutants*.—*Death*! and *Deſtruction*! What ſhall we *do*?—Can't our Lord Lieutenants find Country *Gentlemen* enough, in their reſpective *Counties*, to get requiſite *Inſtructions* for military *Adjutants*?—Muſt our Governors needs fetch grim Tyrants from *Lucifer*, or do they *Ranſack* the Army for *Reprobates*,

bates, on Purpoſe to make a *Hell* over all this *Kingdom*?—Doubtleſs, there may be ſome religious Officers in all Regiments, as I've allowed in my *Scheme* for exerciſing our School-Boys; but, of all thoſe abuſive Commanders in his Majeſty's Service, our tyrannical Parade *Majors*, and military *Adjutants* arecommonly the *Worſt!*

§ *Referr'd* (in *particular*) to the Right Hon. WILL. PITT *and* HEN. BILSON LEGGE, *Eſqr's.*

‡ Notwithſtanding ſuch cruel *Menaces*, as recited, from ſundry Noblemen's ſtiff-necked *Stewards*; ſeveral of our Courtiers Gentlemen aſſured me in a ſerious Manner, that the ſaid Act, to their certain Knowledge, was never deſigned to be put in Execution; but only contrived to quiet the ſimple Country People (perhaps they likewiſe meant our Citizens) becauſe the Court would not willingly have any more of their troubleſome *Addreſſes*!—Therefore, my Friends, if any Body dare aſſiſt me, againſt ſuch powerful *Oppoſers*, I dare almoſt venture to *affirm*, and hereby certify my real *Sentiments*; that our Advocates for a National *Militia*, muſt either Diſcipline their own Sons, like the martial *Spirits* of *York*; or bid a long Farewell to their moſt valuable Privileges, and ſubmit to Slavery, leaſt they ſhould ſuffer Military *Execution*!—Howſoever, with my *Creator's* free Permiſſion, I will defend the *Train's* Penſion, or dye for it; beſides the REST of my firm *Contract*, with a great *Stateſman's* fallacious *Steward*.

F I N I S.

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